

596 picnic. Seemingly, they are not interested in the same thing that we were brought up
597 and raised on. It seems the media is trying to put us all, make us all square pegs and
598 put us in round holes. We are not being treated as a diversified people who we are, no
599 matter who we are: Hispanic, Chinese, Jamaican – no matter what our ethnicity is. We
600 should have representation through television, through radio – especially through the
601 news. Thank you for your time. *Applause*

602 **[Julie McQuain]** Thank you very much Andi, and Re-Media for organizing this amazing
603 event. And, thank you everyone for coming. I work in the media industry, but not for
604 a media outlet. My firm specializes in media relations, which is publicity in various fields.
605 In past years we did many, many author tours. As a close observer of talk and news
606 trends for two decades, I am here to add that this consolidation of stations and content,
607 has public interest implications for business and commercial speech as well. From my
608 direct observation, the proliferation of syndicated content and the consolidation of radio
609 and TV stations into media groups that share a staff, has curtailed the opportunities for
610 local news coverage and local talk. Even in large city media markets, let alone in a
611 weird non-market like we are here in the Hudson Valley, suspended between Albany
612 and New York. In the late '80s and early '90s, my colleagues and I watched in
613 amazement, the syndication of popular TV and radio shows like Howard Stern, Imis,
614 Oprah, Regis and Donahue. Talk show host Russ Limbaugh moved like a one-man
615 wrecking crew across the country, eliminating local lifestyle and talk shows, displacing
616 local personalities from Seattle, Washington to New York City. After ownership
617 relaxation in 1996, a publicist calling a local Texas station, he had booked guests on just
618 a year earlier would encounter secretaries in several business offices before learning
619 that all the programming for multiple stations in that market was coming from
620 somewhere *far* away. We call those stations box on a desk stations in my shop. Don't
621 bother to call. I was astonished when told by TV station WWJ, the CBS affiliate in

622 Detroit, top 20 media market, that they carry only network news – no local news at all.
623 Ever since corporate parent VIACOM bought CBS. They referred me to a formerly
624 competing station, now their partner, with *the* local news operation. And what has
625 happened to the public affairs programs? They are often canned as well, or they don't
626 exist at all. Sadly, cutting production and news staff to carry canned programming is an
627 effective way to improve the bottom line. But, it reduces local news coverage. Even
628 your traffic and weather are provided to the stations by syndicators like Shadow and
629 AccuWeather. Long gone, are opportunities to discuss or promote your community,
630 school, arts, political and social issues and events. Syndicated content and consolidated
631 ownership increases homogeneity and contributes to the loss of regional flavor and
632 localism. Congressman elect Hall reminded me that the TV station that I dressed to in
633 Central Illinois, where I listen to farm reports and could hum the tunes of the various
634 fertilizer companies was vastly differently from the TV I got dressed to in West Virginia.
635 The Bluegrass is what reminded me of it. You would definitely know you were in West
636 Virginia when that morning show was turned on. Now I am sure all the kids dressing in
637 those two communities are watching the same national morning show that we are
638 watching here in Hudson Valley. We did a sixteen –city tour in 1993 for a small press
639 author of a book about Vietnam veterans. The local TV and radio programs afforded
640 opportunities to many vets and their families to share their stories with their
641 communities. That just can't happen when an author appears only on national or
642 syndicated programs. Look to the *LA Times* to see the impact on a print newsroom
643 when making higher profits, becomes a corporate owner's primary purpose. Fewer
644 reporters will have to cover more topics with less time to probe deeply or check facts.
645 It's easier to simply quote an expert from their Rolodex, than do factual reporting for
646 themselves. It is easier by far to an overworked editor on deadline to forget reporting
647 altogether and simply run wire copy or a syndicated column. Corporate PR departments

648 and publicists develop creative tools to exploit the new reality, like video, radio news
649 releases, satellite media tours and mat releases, rolodexing our expert clients with
650 opinion leaders, our business has changed, too. Frankly, when we book a client on one
651 of these national or syndicated shows, our audience is huge and we are very successful.
652 If a corporate client releases a camera-ready news item extolling a new product, or a by-
653 line column on a health topic, it might easily be picked up by 200-400 newspapers.
654 When I get a wire story, I can just go home for the day. My work is done. Maybe for the
655 week because I can call all the newspapers back who told me they'd only cover my
656 news via a wire story. But, as a new consumer, I worry about fewer and fewer decision
657 makers selecting what gets into print and on the air, nationally and locally. We don't
658 know their motivations. Rush Limbaugh's show is owned by Clear Channel which also
659 owns more than 2000 radio stations. Why wouldn't the Clear Channel stations choose
660 to carry him? The economic advantage is obvious: no corporate directive needed. It's
661 asking a lot of 20-something reporter editor or producer who needs their job to push
662 back, when the station owner or newspaper publisher lets the employees know "Don't
663 cover this story or that industry. Play nice with the local company or project." After all,
664 they may only have the job because a more experienced, higher paid old hand was fired
665 or quit. The message is pretty clear. Consolidating more stations and newspapers into
666 fewer media groups, coupled with a lower cost and ease of using syndicated and
667 network content, raises real concerns about who decides what is newsworthy, let alone
668 how to frame the coverage. This concern should apply not only to four profit corporate
669 entities but also non-profit and religious media groups. Not only daily newspapers, but
670 also local weeklies. If I could ask one thing of the FCC, beyond keeping the ownership
671 rules, or even rolling them back and re-instituting the Fairness Doctrine, it would be for
672 some kind of whistleblower protection. People who depend upon media coverage for
673 their business, their candidate, their client or agency, even some here in this room are

674 loath to say publicly everything they know. When a few people wield that kind of power
675 in a community, it is beyond human nature to expect them to police themselves. Thank
676 You. *Applause.*

677 **[ROBERTO CALDERIN]** Hi. My name is Roberto Calderin. My friends call me Bobby.
678 Andi said earlier that you are among friends, so I am going to make myself nice and
679 comfortable. I want to thank the audience for coming out tonight. It is always special for
680 me as a child of the '60s to come out and see activism in play. *Polante mi gente,*
681 forward my people. I would like to thank Congressman Hinchey and, of course,
682 Congressman-elect Hall for being here and Commissioner Copps for coming out and
683 standing up on this issue. Of course, my fellow panelists, thank you for turning out and,
684 of course, to Andi Novick and her "Can Do Crew", the Northeast Citizens for
685 Responsible Media, for all the work that you do and, of course, I am proud to represent
686 Latins Unidos of the Hudson Valley. Media is a powerful thing. Let's not kid ourselves.
687 It can make or break a person or an issue. It drives public opinion, it creates the heroes,
688 it creates the goat's. In the case of Latinos, in my view, and in the view of the
689 organization that I am representing we continue to be irresponsibly dismissed, and
690 sometimes even demonized in the news. A few years ago there was a late night talk
691 show host named Arsenio Hall. You may remember him. He had a *huge* following in
692 the Latino community, and he used to have a segment, things that make you want to
693 say, "Hmm." He used to grab his chin and wonder. I am going to share some of those
694 wonderments with you and see if perhaps they strike home to you, as well. Latinos
695 comprise a \$1 trillion consumer buying market. The media really should consider our
696 projected images more appropriately. Since it is well established that if Latinos don't
697 invest in a product, then the sale of that product will probably fail. Latinos are the most
698 brand-loyal of any constituent group. Advertisers say they know that, but media outlets
699 seem to have a mental block about that. Locally, Orange County Partnership reported

700 that a senior representative from the Federal Reserve Bank stated that international
701 migration keeps the State of New York's population from collapsing. A million New
702 Yorkers have abandoned the Empire State for a variety of reasons; yet, international
703 migration has generated $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million people to move in during the same time. Most of
704 them are Latino folks. Of course, population numbers convert into dollars that fuel our
705 own state's economic engine. Yet, the media projects immigrants as the pleaders of our
706 financial resources. They do not deplete our financial resources. I, myself, am hopeful
707 that the positive cash flow from immigrant based tax contributions will fuel future
708 discussions on the funding of social security, for example. It is contents, perhaps
709 Latinos are key to the future of New York State in terms of our population, and perhaps
710 in the way we contribute to the tax base. Another thing that makes me want to say
711 "Hmmm" in terms of a lost media opportunity. Let me give you an example. The United
712 States of America now has 300 million residents, which includes approximately 45
713 million Latinos. So, that leaves 255 million non-Latinos. Out of that group, I don't know
714 of one who has named their child America. Think of it. I find it very curious that we don't
715 value the word "America" enough to name our children that. Yet, the remaining 45 million
716 Latinos, I myself, know of at least a dozen. There are books written about America, or,
717 America is her name. Yet, according to the 2000 census, the majority of Latinos who
718 entered the United States before 1980, have become citizens. I need more than that.
719 This is not true. An honest inspection of the facts, does not support this. So,
720 interestingly, 45 million Latinos have found a way to name the children America, not
721 reported in the media. I wonder what Miguel Gorbachev must be thinking now when he
722 recalls the day when Ronald Reagan told him, "Tear down that wall." Very macho. Yet
723 we erect one along our Southern border. That wall does not project an "Us" message. It
724 presents an "Us Without You" message. I wonder why walls aren't built on the Northeast
725 border, where the 9/11 terrorists entered the United States? Or, how about the

726 Northwest, where they built that mile-long tunnel where they transport all those drugs?
727 How come up there there's is no wall up there? I wonder about all of those things? I
728 wonder why all of a sudden we have so-called 'illegals' and 'aliens'. For 100 years they
729 entered this nation, and they picked our produce, they built our structures, they tended to
730 our landscaping, they cared for our kids, they prepared our foods. All of a sudden 45
731 million Latinos are discovered, and now they are going to be evicted. Meanwhile, half
732 this nation was first explored by Europeans from Spain, from the Southern United States
733 all the way to Alaska. Latinos went to global exploration in the 15th century, what the
734 United States is to space exploration in the 20th. And media has ignored reporting this.
735 Approximately 12 million Latinos are described as illegal and alien. It's a myth that
736 illegals all sneak across the border. Carlos Gutierrez, the US Commerce Secretary
737 says "almost half enter legally". Unlike Europe, many immigrants come for the welfare
738 system over there. Here they come to work. Take the business community, the
739 backbone of America economy is a small business community. It's Latino-based. A key
740 indicator of Latino integration into the US mainstream is the rise of English language,
741 Latino focused publication market. National magazines like Hispanic business with a
742 circulation of 265,000 and Latina Magazine with a circulation of 2 million readers are
743 published in English; yet, media says Latinos don't want to learn English. Facts do not
744 support that either. Meanwhile locally, we have publications like *M So!* and radio
745 stations like Latin Jubilee get very little advertising dollars. We want ownership. Show
746 us how, and we want to get that going as soon as we can. Did you know that out of
747 13,000 stories, don't put that up again 13,000 stories aired in major networks, less
748 than 1% are Latino related. Did you know that 1% of evening news is devoted to Latino
749 teamster stories? Did you know that Latino images are left out of the mainstream news
750 coverage all the time? Did you know that we are *always* reported as perpetrators of
751 crime? You know, the greasy haired villain. As far back as 1947 the Commission of the

752 Freedom of the Press also knows as the Hutchins Commission outlined the
753 responsibilities of the news media in a democratic society. It held that the press should
754 project a representative picture of the constituent groups in society. Twenty years later,
755 President Lyndon Johnson appointed a national advisory commission on civil disorders,
756 the Kerner Commission, who concluded that the media's inaccurate portrayals and
757 misrepresentations of the black community contributed to the racial division in our
758 country. Both Hutchins and Kerner urged the news media to improve their coverage of
759 minorities. Here we are, sixty years after Hutchins, and we are still discussing the
760 same issues. Look, I'm going to step off and I'm gonna tell you this: Latinos are made
761 of great Americans, whether those Americans are from North America, Central America
762 or South America. Our surnames include names like Bonaparte or Higgins and
763 Farragut, you know, damned the torpedos, full steam ahead. That was a Latin guy.
764 Sequins, Picasso, Solgovia, Chavez – it goes on and on. We are made of the mambo,
765 bolero, basinova, ronchera dancers, operettas even that new raggaeton rhythm that is
766 coming out of Puerto Rico. Latinos are an indigenous people of Africans, of Europeans,
767 of Asians – all cultures flow in Latino veins. We are white, black, Jew or Gentile, from all
768 over – from the Northern tip of Canada to the Southern tip of Latin America. I say to the
769 media, "Take note. We'll help where we can, but I think it's time that for all of us." I think
770 we are all saying the same thing. I say, "Polante" to the people, for the people and by
771 the people. Ere tiempo. Bueno noche. *applause*

772 **[ANDI NOVICK]** Okay. Now we are ready for the public commentary. Everybody's got
773 the rules, I don't have to do them a third time, right? Let me ask the following people –
774 see the mike in the center here? Let me ask the following people to come

775 END OF TAPE 1

1 FCC HEARING – HUDSON VALLEY

2 Tape: # 2

3 Date: Dec. __, 2006

4

5 Tape 2 Side 1

6 Tape begun at Counter # 2

7 [MARJORIE LEOPOLD] My name is Marjorie Leopold, and I am a teacher for Ulster

8 BOCES, and as a high school teacher in Ulster County, I can confidently say most

9 students are turned off by simplistic and repetitive messages from the media. The real

10 issues that concern them, like the rising cost of education and the great uncertainty they

11 face in their futures, they won't learn much about through the mass media. They get

12 titillating entertainment, they get violence through network and cable, but they don't get

13 much information about the big issues. We should want to engage and educate.

14 Instead, all we offer through the formulaic mass media is by and large not engaging and

15 not educational. Thank you.

16 [DEEDEE HALLECK] I am DeeDee Halleck, an independent producer and one of the

17 founders of Deep Dish Television, a free speech TV which has been providing

18 alternative programming to community channels throughout the United States via

19 satellite for decades. I am a past president of the Association for Independent Video

20 and Filmmakers and a former trustee of the American Film Institute. My films have been

21 screened in many international festivals, and one was nominated for an academy award.

22 In 2001, I worked with Deep Dish TV to initiate the television version of Democracy Now

23 and our efforts with that have created the largest public media collaboration in the United

24 States. But, our main television outlet is through PEG – Public, Governmental and

25 Educational Access. There is no other way for local and alternative programming to
26 reach a television audience than with the channels, which are required for public interest
27 on cable and for direct broadcast satellite. PEG is a model which would... could be
28 applied to all broadcast and satellite and IP media. Commercial media do not
29 adequately serve community needs and interests. Consolidation of media exacerbates
30 the problems. Although in many communities PEG is underutilized, it is an important
31 example of all that is needed. We ask the FCC to evaluate the policies and practices of
32 PEG access and community regulation of telecommunication. And, this is not just a
33 local problem here in the United – in the Hudson Valley or the United States, this is an
34 international issue. And, one of the things that wasn't mentioned about Franklin Delano
35 Roosevelt and the help he got was his wife, his great wife, Eleanor, and her constant
36 interest in international issues and in founding the United Nations. It is people all around
37 the world are very interested in PEG, and I am often asked to speak. And, I just came
38 back from Paris and Graz in Vienna and Austria where I spoke about public access.
39 And it's, people around the world are interested in this incredible model for democracy
40 that we have. Thank you.

41 [FRANCIS SANDIFORD] My name is Francis Sandiford. As far as affiliation is
42 concerned, I am with New Yorkers against the Death Penalty. Do we get any death
43 penalty coverage? Not much. Well, what happened is this morning I was on Peter
44 Leonard's show, which comes out on WKIP. We had it recorded. When is it going to be
45 broadcasted? 5:00 am on Sunday morning. Even Peter said he doesn't get up and hear
46 it at that time. Okay. But, at least it's there. I have noticed that about sometimes more
47 controversial, more liberal causes they are on, but on the most times, when you know,
48 you are either asleep or ready to be asleep. Okay. One thing about the media I have
49 noticed on television. In the early morning, I usually get on channel 4, which gives a lot
50 of local things -- I mean, New York stuff, and the weather. If you check, if they are doing

51 a program on a particular subject and you suddenly turn to CNN, they are doing exactly
52 the same subject. I don't know how they time that, but they are all set up together. If it
53 is OJ at 4, you turn to CNN and it's OJ. Okay. So, I think the thing, the third thing I
54 wanted to comment is that the media is a wonderful way to take our mind off what is
55 really happening in the world because when the greatest events happen, they come up
56 with a cat who is caught in a wall and we spend at least three days getting the progress
57 of the cat as he crawls up and by that time, everybody says, "Well, what happened to --?
58 Well, we got the cat out, didn't we?" I mean this is --

59 [ANDI NOVICK] Sorry, can you just sum it up now -- another turn.

60 [FRANCIS SANDIFORD] Okay. The liberal causes on odd hours, entertainment taking
61 our mind off things that are really happening. Thank you.

62 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you. Steve, one sec. Can I call up this so we keep this moving.
63 Jeff Cohen. Alice Mann. Gary Bishoff. Mannna Jo Greene and Bill Hoynes. Steve, go
64 for it.

65 [STEVE] Okay. Your son is bothering me.

66 [ANDI NOVICK] Jake, stop.

67 [STEVE DENSMORE] laugh ... Good evening. My name is Steve Densmore, and I
68 have been a reporter, editor and publisher for independent newspapers for nearly two
69 decades. As a journalist, I have stood watch and chronicled countless council planning
70 and school board meetings. In that time, I have witnessed a remarkable transformation
71 in the coverage of local news and not for the better. When once there were reporters
72 from the daily, two or more weeklies and various radio stations seated in the front row of
73 most important meetings, now there are occasionally two reporters, generally one and
74 often none. Gone are the radio reporters who once brought a media seat to the
75 reporting in the Hudson Valley -- all victims of slashed editorial budgets at stations that
76 once competed but now are all part of the same corporate family. Gone are most of the

77 independently owned weeklies that once dotted the valley, mirroring the personalities of
78 the communities they covered. They have been replaced by chain-run papers that tend
79 to produce formulaic painting of the news that mimics and follows but rarely leads or
80 enlightens. Gone are the regional TV reporters, somewhere south of here to the
81 epicenter of a much larger media market, venturing here for only the most salacious and
82 sensational stories. These are not just the maudlin longings of a journalist pining for the
83 good old days, they are descriptions of a system that in a very short period of time has
84 eroded to such a point as to become almost ineffectual. As their hold on the market
85 tightens, corporate newsrooms, the largest expense in media business, slowly evaporate
86 in favor of canned syndicated content; they cost their host pennies. In the end, there is
87 no doubt that media consolidation translates into loss for consumers, communities and
88 groups with no ad budgets. We should not shrug our shoulders and cynically accept this
89 as the way things are but rather work to reverse this dangerous tide. It erodes the very
90 foundation of our democracy. We hope that your election, Mr. Hall, signals that this foul
91 tide may be turning and that you and Congressman Hinchey and Commissioner Copps
92 will bring our words to Washington. Thank you for being here. *Applause*

93 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you.

94 [DON DEBAR] Hi. My name is Don Debar. Mr. Greenfield, I believe, I am going to read
95 his statement and then my own when you call my name. Mr. Greenfield's concern is
96 with the proposed Media Reform Act, the intent of it he agrees with. He feels
97 sympathetic, too. He is concerned that there is an analog to the 527 problems with
98 McCain Feingold in that people can own shares in private equity firms, which in turn can
99 own media and the ownership is thus invisible. I will read his comments from here
100 forward. Clear Channel, the high profile, but by no means singular boogey man of the
101 post Telecommunications Act of '96 is being bought by a pair of private equity firms, and
102 there are bidding wars underway in other media sectors as well. There is no way to

103 know who owns any portion of equity firms and funds. While the Legislation is now
104 written to prevent say Carlyle Group from owning too many radio stations, there is no
105 way to know if key shareholders of Carlyle are also key shareholders in Bain Capital or
106 any number of other holding companies. By simply buying controlling stakes and many
107 equity funds and then acquiring media outlets, the same five people can own everything.
108 Nobody would know it, no law would be broken and there would be no public recourse.
109 I'll go to his summary. He asks that the FCC issue an advisory to the SEC that it oppose
110 media acquisitions by equity funds on the basis that it makes current FCC regulations
111 unenforceable, and he also asks Congressman Hinchey, I assume also Congressman
112 elect Hall and co-sponsors to amend the Media Reform Act to ensure that regardless of
113 the prospects for general reform of corporate law and any corporate personhood in the
114 larger manner that no equity fund may protect anonymity in ownership stakes of
115 individual members when the fund owns or seeks to own media.

116 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you.

117 [JEFF COHEN] I am Jeff Cohen, the founder of FAIR and a recovering TV pundit. I
118 want to welcome Commissioner Copps to the Hudson Valley, where we have experience
119 with the impact of a non-free press. For decades, General Electric plants dumped toxic
120 PCBs in the river and for decades after that, they used their political clout to stall a
121 cleanup. And then they gained even more political clout when they acquired NBC in
122 1986. Five years ago, the EPA ordered General Electric to pay for a cleanup, and soon
123 after NBC's president, Bob Wright, publicly, personally lobbied the New York City
124 Council not to endorse the cleanup. The message to NBC employees was clear, that
125 independent coverage of the Hudson River controversy might be dangerous to your
126 journalistic career. A week, about a year after that incident, Bob Wright became my
127 boss when I was hired by NBC's cable news channel, MSNBC as a commentator and a
128 producer. There I saw suppression of the news firsthand in the run up to the Iraq war. I

129 was the senior producer on Phil Donahue's primetime MSNBC show when it was
130 muzzled and then three weeks before the invasion of Iraq, we were terminated when we
131 were the most-watched program on MSNBC. We know from internal NBC memos that
132 the muzzling of Phil Donahue was political. He was deemed too skeptical, too
133 questioning, too journalistic about the impending war. There are now, my final point, five
134 conglomerates that dominate TV news on broadcast and cable. I have taken paychecks
135 from three of them. Democracy is threatened when powerful, politically active
136 conglomerates like General Electric or Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation are allowed
137 to own so many media outlets. Thank you very much. *Applause.*

138 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you.

139 [GARY BISCHOFF] I am Gary Bischoff, Ulster County Legislator from Saugerties, New
140 York and I'm really concerned about the state of media in this country, both as a citizen
141 and an elected official. I am also speaking as a former newspaper columnist and a radio
142 talk show host. My partner, Art Richter, and myself were so concerned about the lack of
143 diverse political perspective on the air that we started a weekly radio show that covers
144 local, state and national issues. For well over a year, we have been hosting Radio Free
145 Kingston, a call-in show on WKNY out of Kingston, New York, on Sunday afternoons.
146 We took positive action on our own to create a program that represents progressive
147 issues, and we encourage our listeners to understand how policies affect them and how
148 vital it is to get informed and stay involved. One of the topics that we have repeatedly
149 covered is responsible media and the role of media in our society. We believe that there
150 is an audience of people that will read newspapers or listen to, or watch programming
151 that gives a balanced point of view and informs them about important issues. Local
152 media outlets are critical for citizens to know and understand local issues that directly
153 affect their lives. As more and more radio stations, TV stations and newspapers get
154 gobbled up by larger and larger companies, the first thing we lose is coverage of local

155 issues and local government. We need policies that favor local communities and their
156 needs rather than the needs of corporations. Policies must be put in place to promote
157 diverse, local ownership of media. It is vital that the FCC makes sure that broadcast
158 stations truly serve the listening public's needs. The airwaves are a public resource that
159 must be regulated so that it benefits the greatest number of people rather than being
160 used for the greatest profits. The corporations and wealthy broadcasters should not have
161 more influence over FCC policy than regular citizens. I urge the FCC to enact and
162 strengthen protections against consolidated corporate ownership, and I thank you for
163 this opportunity. *Applause*

164 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you. Manna just wait one second. Can I call up Edwin Pell,
165 Anne McCabe, Mindy Berman, Don DeBar and Pat Lamanna.

166 [MANNA JO GREENE] I am Manna Jo Greene, I am the Environmental Director for
167 Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and I serve as councilwoman on the Rosendale Town
168 Board. I am also a life-long activist for peace, social justice and environmental
169 protection. I am going to talk to you about the environment, but first I must say that the
170 most egregious abuse of media in recent history has been the propaganda around the
171 illegal, immoral and unnecessary war in Iraq. *Applause* I want to echo what Jeff Cohen
172 just said about the Hudson River cleanup. The EPA's decision to require General
173 Electric to remediate the 200 miles of Hudson River PCB superfund site critically
174 depended on diversified, local, regional and national media to counter GE's massive
175 disinformation campaign aimed in avoiding cleaning up the Hudson -- the PCB
176 contamination for which it was responsible. GE spent an estimated \$60 to \$100 million
177 on advertising and legal fees to assure the public that PCBs were safe, that the river was
178 cleaning itself up and that they should not have to take responsibility for their actions.
179 That is about one-fifth of the actual cost of cleanup from a company that nets \$14 billion
180 dollar profits a year. Indian Point, an aging nuclear power plant at Indian Point Entergy,

181 is now demonstrating how much media influence a large corporation can have without
182 controlling all the media; meanwhile, radioactive material is leaking into the groundwater
183 under the plant and finding its way into the Hudson River with very little coverage by
184 local or regional press. To protect its \$2.3 million dollar per day earning, Entergy hired
185 Burson-Marsteller, who's best known for defending Union Carbide after Bhopal. And
186 they placed carefully, they purchased carefully placed ads assuring the public that Indian
187 Point is safe, secure and vital. Meanwhile, Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition has been
188 working diligently to obtain an independent safety assessment of the plant, prevent re-
189 licensing, monitor the leak and to close and decommission this unsafe nuclear power
190 facility. Without access to locally diverse media, this will be impossible. Now, let's go
191 even closer to home, the Kingston Waterfront

192 [ANDI NOVICK] Manna, you are going to have to wrap that soon because we ...

193 [MANNA JO GREENE] I am going to finish.

194 [ANDI NOVICK] Well, you are currently over ...

195 [MANNA JO GREENE] Currently we are facing two development proposals totaling
196 2000 units along the Kingston's last 1.5 mile of riverfront. *The Kingston Freeman* has
197 sided with the developers and repeatedly portrayed the friends of the Kingston
198 waterfront as nimby anti-development tree huggers. We, in fact, support sustainable
199 development on this former industrial site and have advocated for mixed use, mixed
200 income, traditional neighborhood design that fits within the infrastructure, constraints,
201 enhances rather than detracts from quality of life in the surrounding communities and
202 protects sensitive ecological resources. Fortunately, *Ulster Publishing*, *The*
203 *Poughkeepsie Journal*, RNN and others have adhered to the journalistic tradition of
204 presenting all sides, and the city planners availing themselves of a variety of sources are
205 listening. One word on equity funds – *applause* –

206 [FEMALE SPEAKER] Manna, there's a whole room full of people, I am really sorry,

207 could you submit the testimony? Everyone wants to speak.

208 [MANNA JO GREENE] Okay I'll read you my last sentence.

209 [MALE SPEAKER] Time. Time. Time.

210 [FEMALE SPEAKER] Thank you.

211 [ALICE MANN] I'm Alice Mann, I live in Hyde Park and I work in the mediation center of

212 Dutchess County. My great concern is that the consolidation of the media in the hands of

213 so many robs us of the right to participate in democracy. When we don't know what's

214 going on we can't take...we can't participate and address issues that are really important

215 to us. I would like to call the panel's attention to something that is a typical thing that

216 happens around here in terms of newspapers. We have weekly newspapers and in the

217 entire county they are owned by one publisher who also owns and publishes the

218 Kingston Daily and we've had situations where we've gone to put press releases in the

219 papers and we are told that they need two weeks notice. Sometimes when you are

220 planning a political event or you're opening a political office even for a major political

221 party as happened in our case we could not get that information into the newspaper. And

222 if it can happen for a major political party, then how can it happen for so many other

223 organizations and smaller political parties. And its just amazing how these subtle little

224 things really cut us off from communicating with each other so that we can have our

225 voices heard. Thank you. (*Applause*)

226 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you.

227 [WILLIAM HOYNES] Good evening. My name is William Hoynes. I'm a professor of

228 sociology at Vassar College here in Poughkeepsie. And I was the founding director of

229 Vassar's media studies program. My research and teaching for many years have

230 focused on the media industry in the United States. My primary concern tonight is with

231 the availability and quality of local news, something many people have remarked about.

232 The findings of recent research on media ownership show quite clearly that

233 consolidation in the media industry undermines localism and diversity in news. Local
234 news is rarely a priority for national and regional media companies. Instead of investing
235 in local reporting large media companies are far more likely to make staff cuts in local
236 news rooms, to consolidate news gathering operations among multiple news outlets and
237 to produce generic news content that's not connected to local communities. In contrast
238 locally owned media outlets are far more likely than national chains to emphasize local
239 news, to highlight issues of importance to communities and to provide access to a range
240 of local perspectives on issues and events. Communities especially like those in the
241 Hudson Valley that are on the margins of a major media market, need local news and
242 information in our print and broadcast media. Our best chance to have robust local
243 content about village, town and county government, economic and environmental issues
244 in our communities, local schools, the arts and culture, is with newspapers and radio
245 stations that are locally owned. Media in the Hudson Valley are already highly
246 concentrated. Local broadcast news, both television and radio is very limited and most of
247 our print media are owned by regional or national newspaper groups. If the FCC further
248 relaxes or eliminates existing media ownership rules, there is every reason to believe
249 that media in the Hudson Valley will become even more consolidated, that local news
250 will continue to decline and local communities will suffer the consequences of
251 consolidation. We need news that provides regular substantive coverage of local issues
252 and includes diverse perspectives from within our communities. Current ownership
253 restrictions must be maintained, even strengthened, if we are to protect the possibility of
254 genuinely local media that serve our communities. Thank you. *(Applause)*

255 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you.

256 [ED PELL] Hi. My name is Ed Pell. I am from Rhinebeck, New York. One of my favorite
257 sources of news is Al Jazeera in English on the internet. And it's reliable and it's
258 available every day, day in and day out except for the start of the Iraq War when it was

259 unavailable for a week. It just wasn't there. It was being censored by the US Military is
260 my take on that coincidence. I can't prove that point but that's my belief. I contacted my
261 Congressman, John Sweeney. He was not willing to take any action or investigate in any
262 way. Um...I work in the semiconductor industry which is a completely globalized industry
263 now. And uh, tech workers...military censorship is only going to drive tech workers to
264 work elsewhere. And if we don't have free information available here, we can work
265 anywhere else in the globe. We can work in Taiwan, India, Pakistan, Egypt, France,
266 Germany. It's a completely globalized industry so if the US wants to retain talented
267 workers it needs to maintain free flow of information. *(Applause)*

268 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you.

269 [Anne McCabe] My name is Anne McCabe. Thomas Jefferson said that the ability to
270 maintain a free society depended on an informed electorate. I work with freshman in
271 college who are very bright and concerned people. And yet in our recent discussion of
272 ethics we went over and read a book about the genocide in Rwanda and we made some
273 comparisons with what happened with those who abused power in Enron. What was
274 really frightening was that these very intelligent and concerned American citizens, young
275 people, didn't really know about these issues in general. And that's horrifying. And it
276 horrified them. And they were really even more horrified to understand that in the Sudan
277 and in Chad the same thing is going on now in terms of genocide. Um. It's hard not to be
278 informed. I think that having local and diverse news is absolutely essential. The war in
279 Iraq, where to be diverse at the time that it happened was to think that we should not
280 have gone to war, gave those of us who felt that way a feeling of being alone. And I
281 would just like to thank Congressman Hinchey for not letting us be alone. Thank you so
282 much, sir. *(Applause)*

283 [MINDY BERMAN] My name is Mindy Berman and I am the Communications Director for
284 1199 SCIU. I am here on behalf of our 300,000 health care workers. Those members

285 whose vital work, whose struggle, whose courage deserves to be known. I want to speak
286 to two issues: one is health care reform and how it's portrayed and the other, our labor
287 union issues. First of all, next week in New York, a state appointed panel is going to
288 deliver some news, decisions about hospitals and nursing homes and which are going to
289 be restructured and which are going to be closed. Just the mention of this kind of change
290 is scary to those of us who use health care services in rural communities upstate and
291 certainly to all healthcare workers who are wondering if they are going to have a job in
292 2007. But I am not here to discuss the pros and cons of the commission. I am concerned
293 about how the media is going to cover the news. These are complicated issues and
294 complex decisions. To come up with the best possible healthcare system requires that
295 the issues be considered from all sides. Our concern is that if the media is under the
296 control of only a few corporate entities, only the narrowest of issues will be presented.
297 Labor unions...true story. More than 100 1199 SCIU nursing home workers who are
298 earning less than \$7.10 an hour were on strike for two days in Albany last year. They
299 were striking because they were making such poor wages that the home was constantly
300 understaffed, the employees were overworked. They were fatigued. That's not safe for
301 the residents there. And so the healthcare workers wanted the public to know. This
302 nursing home is located immediately next door to a network-affiliated TV station. I mean,
303 immediately next door. We watched the news cars and trucks come and go in the
304 parking lot. They didn't cover the story. Some of the union operating engineers came
305 over and stood with us in solidarity. We said, "Hey, what's going on over there?" and
306 they said...

307 [ANDI NOVICK] Can you just sum up, I am sorry.

308 [MINDY BERMAN] ...it's too sensitive of an issue. We're in labor negotiations here and
309 they are not going to report this story. Okay then, we need more information, not less.
310 We need more diversity, not less. We need less consolidation. Thank you. (*Applause*)

311 [ANDI NOVICK] Thanks so much. Wait one second, let me just call up Dave Channon,
312 Justin ...I cant read that... from Saugerties, Citizen's Action. Oh, Judith Simon. Sorry,
313 Judith. Kenneth Vogel and Cecilia De La Rosa. Thanks.

314 [DON DEBAR] Okay?

315 [ANDI NOVICK] Yes. Sure

316 [DON DEBAR] My name is Don Debar still. I am a producer for WBAI Pacifica in New
317 York 99.5 FM. *(Applause)* Thank you. And I cover the Hudson Valley on Mondays on
318 Wake Up Call at 6:35 am which is a later than 5 am anyway. I, uh, can sympathize with
319 Manna Jo. The local media in Westchester also does a very insufficient job of covering
320 some very basic and fundamental development issues. News 12 for example, if we were
321 holding a press conference with the second coming of Jesus Christ and there were a car
322 fire on the Sawmill Parkway, that would lead on the News 12 evening news. *(Laughter)*.
323 Um. I want to say something and I think I will just repeat it until my time is up because I
324 think it is a very important sentence. The possibility of democracy under a condition of
325 private control of information is non-existent. The possibility of democracy under a
326 condition of private control of information is non-existent. If we think about the model of a
327 telephone system where people communicate with each other all over the world every
328 day all day long and think of what that sounds like to someone that can hear all of it at
329 once. And then think about getting a recorded message from a political candidate at
330 home during dinner or someone selling satellite service. That is the difference between
331 the model we should have and the one we do have and the paradigm needs to change.
332 And I would like to ask Commissioner Copps after thanking you profusely for the efforts
333 that you have given so far, to look at trying to helps us shift the paradigm. Thank you.

334 *(Applause)*

335 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you.

336 [PAT LAMANNA] Hi. My name is Pat LaManna and I live in Poughkeepsie, New York.

337 That's the city of. I am a member of the Duchess Peace Coalition. That's
338 www.duchesspeace.org. Last October 20th, the Duchess Peace Coalition and the
339 Praxxus program at Marist College co-hosted a talk by Elizabeth Holtzman, former
340 Congresswoman, on the subject "The Political Implications of Impeachment". A few days
341 before the talk, a reporter from the Poughkeepsie Journal was contacted and said that
342 he would cover the talk. I also wrote a letter to the Journal to inform their readers,
343 knowing that it would more likely be seen on the letters page than buried in a calendar.
344 Now as everyone in this room probably knows, the Poughkeepsie Journal prints just
345 about every letter it receives. They've printed just about every letter I have sent them,
346 anyway. Um. I know that they have a policy of not publishing more than one letter by the
347 same writer in a month but it had been several months since I had wrote to them. The
348 day of the talk came, the reporter from the Poughkeepsie Journal did not. My letter also
349 was not printed. The talk was announced, buried on the calendar page. In my view an
350 appearance by a former Congresswoman on a topic as important as this should have
351 received more coverage. I can't say for sure that it was not covered for political reasons
352 but I can say that events of this kind are frequently ignored while visits to the area by
353 politicians or even former politicians for other reasons are generally well covered. I
354 would like to take the last couple of seconds to put in a plug for net neutrality. (*Applause*)
355 Congressman Hall alluded to the internet as a partial antidote for some of the issues that
356 we have been raising. And I'm concerned that the media outlets that are now trying to
357 monopolize the radio, TV, newspapers, stations are also trying to monopolize the
358 internet. I don't know whether this falls under the purview of the FCC but I hope that they
359 can do something about it so that this doesn't happen. Thank you. (*Applause*)
360 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you.
361 [JUDITH SIMON] *Hi*. I am Judith Simon. I am an activist with Citizen Action of the
362 Hudson Valley and the Saugerties Democrats. Um. Media bias. The coverage of the

363 theft of the US election in 2004 versus the coverage of the theft of the election in the
364 Ukraine which happened at the same time. Unbelievable you would think. Okay. One.
365 The coverage of Clinton's peccadillo versus the coverage of the Downing Street memo. I
366 have a suggestion for a new law. The people who are using our airwaves, the networks,
367 the cable companies, etc get immense amounts of money for commercials which we get
368 none of. I believe they pay \$279 dollars per year for a license if I am not mistaken. Well,
369 anyway. Why don't we get a portion of their commercial monies? In other words when
370 there is a commercial, maybe we get .5 percent or 1 percent and that's a suggestion for
371 legislation.

372 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you. (*Applause*)

373 [DAVE CHANNON] My name is Dave Channon and I am an independent video producer
374 and I have participated in public access for many years. I think we all recognize the
375 danger of media consolidation and how it poisons the atmosphere of public discourse. It
376 leads to war. It enables giant corporations to steal you know trillions of dollars from the
377 world and...the one thing no one's mentioned is the...how this consolidation contributes
378 to climate change. And not global warming or even global chilling but more national
379 chilling of free speech. So that even outlets that are not controlled or owned by giant
380 conglomerates like the New York Times or NPR radio are saying and doing the same
381 things as if they were controlled and owned. So the New York Times helps us to be led
382 to believe that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and NPR radio has slipped so far
383 in the public esteem that people joked about it as being Nationalist Propaganda Radio.
384 So the climate is...is dictated by the overwhelming tidal wave of corporately owned
385 media and then even individually owned media follows suit, picks up the ball and runs
386 with it and uh or at least is often too afraid to contradict it. (*Applause*)

387 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you. Judith, you are definitely cheating, I can tell.

388 [JUDITH] No, I am finishing. I was actually, I had 30 seconds left. Just very quickly that

389 the money from the commercials that we should be getting, at least a portion of, be used
390 for public funding of elections, which would change a lot, number one. And also would
391 be used to fund a genuinely public broadcasting system. Independent public
392 broadcasting system. Thank you. (*Applause*)

393 [KENNETH VOGEL] Hi. Kenneth Vogel from Plattekill, New York. I would like to thank
394 everyone for showing up at this museum. I am going to mention a few other museums I
395 would like you all to go visit to verify what I am about to say because I doubt you will
396 hear it on the media. The museum down the road known as Locust Grove is from
397 Samuel Morse, the inventor of the Morse code. His partner according to that museum is
398 a gentleman by the name of Alfred Bell. His father happened to own a place called
399 Speedwell Village down in Morristown, New Jersey if you've been to that museum. He
400 happened to own a railroad called the Morristown-Erie railroad. This gentleman also did
401 well with Samuel Morse. His son decided to invest in a railroad company called Baldwin
402 & Company. Baldwin Bell & Company out of Philadelphia. Anybody hear of it? Baldwin
403 Locomotive Works? Anyway, that guy's son was the gentleman from AT&T who went
404 before Congress and said listen, I think this would be a better place if we have a home
405 phone in everybody's house. And hence, a monopoly was born. From my 20 years in the
406 business of telecommunications, I understand that Bell Communications is now going
407 before Congress and saying, listen I think it's going to be a better place if everyone has
408 wireless internet in their house. And then you are going to say, I am not going to fall for
409 that line again, a monopoly! And they are going to say, whoa, what about the global
410 market? Well, hey then you are just going to have national media. And the two things I
411 want to relate, and I have 30 seconds is one is, for one, TV was invented at Bell Labs
412 and the other is that Bell Labs' location in Holmdel, New Jersey is now going to the
413 wrecking ball in 2007 because of Lucent going under.

414 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you. (*Applause*) Could I just call up to the mic, Richard Rivera,

415 Johannes Sayre, Chuck Benf, Fred Silverman and Joan Grisham. thanks. Go ahead.
416 [CECILIA DE LA ROSA] Good evening, everybody. I don't want to tell who I am but what
417 I do is what is relevant to this meeting tonight. I am from Nashua, New Hampshire and
418 I'm glad that I made it to this tonight. And the... I am here tonight to address the piece of
419 the pie that affects our children, our family and our society as a whole. And what I am
420 going to discuss tonight, maybe some and most of you doesn't want to hear about it.
421 Cause I am discussing today the domestic violence and mothers that lost their children
422 to the injustice of the court and the media acquiesces to it. I have to read some this
423 email that I sent otherwise I am gonna lost track of my time. (pause) Sorry. (pause) I'm
424 lost now. Um. All these years I was wondering about all this chaos on the family courts.
425 We as a nation of mothers going the same experience through the internet gather our
426 forces together and we meet every year in Albany, New York to find a solution to our
427 problems. Last year we made a documentary of the most egregious act of judges all
428 over the United States. It is called Breaking the Silence. Most of us speaks about losing
429 child custody and worse proceedings assisted by the courts. It was heart wrenching and
430 scared of the repercussions of the courts but we managed to get it done. In this
431 conference you can find a most irate dangerous human species on the planet Earth, the
432 mothers who lost their babies to these animals who most of them are pedophiles.
433 [ANDI NOVICK] Can I ask you to pick a few sentences to sum up?
434 [CECILIA DE LA ROSA] Yes. Sure. I don't know if I should be on this hearing because. I
435 know that I can find pleasure in shredding these people into pieces given a few seconds
436 of time. If that is the case I encourage them to denounce their oath as Americans, be
437 stripped of their rights and privileges as they cannot serve the duty to the Constitution as
438 all of us must do. No one journalist had the common sense to trick a radio station so
439 even the small person [unintelligible four words]. It is quite demeaning and insulting to
440 know about these journalists. Hence I cannot resist to tell the same story. Keeps on

441 attacking immigrants from another country, alleging that most immigrants are coming
442 here to the United States motivated only by money and money alone. To this effect the
443 question that motivates those pilgrims who came here from England are not by far any
444 means different from us. But in all means are the worst, cowardice, deprived humanity in
445 its best virtue. The courage to stand and fight the monarchs at home is the reason why
446 they left England. If...

447 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you.

448 [CECILIA DE LA ROSA] If those are the decedents our founding fathers came from it is
449 not surprising that democracy they preach today is a farce portrayal of who they really
450 are. Cowards! Such are the men and women of the media who are too weak to bend but
451 are too lazy to stand. Winston Churchill, [unintelligible 2 words] the rest virtue embedded
452 with the survival within. What a hypocrisy this can be. Maybe in presence it is what they
453 require me to be. They, the media continue to assist the court in dehumanizing...

454 FEMALE VOICE] I'm sorry. I'm going to have to ask you to stop, there are a lot of people
455 waiting.

456 [CECILIA DE LA ROSA] The PBS is the evidence in [unintelligible 1 word] to prove our
457 cost. Our conference is Albany, January 7.

458 [ANDI NOVICK] Thank you.

459 [CECILIA DE LA ROSA] Thank you. (*Applause*)

460 [DAVID SHUFELT] Okay. My name is David Shufelt from Millerton, New York. I just want
461 to mention that I do actually work for an independent newspaper and traveled about 200
462 miles up in NW Massachusetts and Eastern New York plugging advertising and its an
463 interesting experience. There is so much corporate media out there. But I just wanted to
464 relay an experience I had recently. Um. This was actually at my college in New England.
465 An alumn came back. I put here because I don't really want to put this person on the
466 spot by mentioning the name and the network but it is a major network executive who